

4474

County Borough of South Shields



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

School Medical Officer

for the year 1947

W. CAMPBELL LYONS,

M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b30115991>

*To the Chairman and Members
of the Education Committee.*

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the work of the School Health Service during the year 1947.

The nutrition of the children has been well maintained and when compared with the year 1946, there is a slight decrease in the number of those whose nutrition were classified as "poor" and a small increase in the number classified as "good".

There has been a further decrease in the number of children suffering from tuberculosis. The reduction is most marked in tuberculosis of organs other than the lungs.

There has been some improvement in the cleanliness of the children but there is still room for more improvement. It is unfortunate that the time of trained nurses should be taken up with the detection of uncleanness when their services might be put to a better use.

Much concern is felt at the number of educationally subnormal children who require special treatment and for whom facilities for such treatment are not available. Residential accommodation in particular is scarce and the time has come for the provision of this type of accommodation on a regional basis.

To my staff, medical, dental, nursing and clerical, who have worked so well during the year, I have pleasure in recording my thanks.

W. CAMPBELL LYONS,
School Medical Officer.

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE.

Annual Report of the School Medical Officer.

Staff.

The staff of the School Health Service consists of two whole-time and one part-time assistant medical officers ; one whole-time and one part-time dental surgeons ; the equivalent of seven full-time school nurses ; one dental attendant and one nursing assistant.

Co-ordination.

There was complete co-ordination between the school health service and the Council's other medical and hospital services.

THE SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE IN RELATION TO SCHOOLS MAINTAINED BY THE AUTHORITY.

Number of children on the registers at the end of 1947	14,665
Average attendance for the year (91.95 per cent)	13,257
Number of schools (excluding the Special School for delicate and partially sighted children and the Special School for educationally subnormal children)	26
Number of departments	48
Number of children on registers of the two special schools at the end of 1947	284
Average attendance at special schools (83.68 per cent)	227

Medical Inspection.

The number of children examined at routine and other inspections at maintained Primary and Secondary Schools :—

1. Routine Medical Inspections.

Entrants	1,512
Second age group	1,534
Third age group	1,360
Other routine inspections	101
Total	4,507

2. Other Inspections.

Number of special inspections	6,001
Number of re-inspections	5,842
Total	11,843

Nutrition.

The following is a classification of the state of nutrition of the children examined at Routine Medical Inspection.

	<i>Number.</i>	<i>Percentage.</i>
Good	1,249	27.7
Fair	2,369	52.6
Poor	889	19.7

A different terminology is used in describing the state of nutrition in this year's survey. Those judged as "excellent" in former years are now termed "good"; the "normal" are referred to as "fair" and both the "slightly subnormal" and "bad" are grouped together and classified as "poor".

Broadly speaking the findings are very similar to those of 1946.

Cleanliness.

Two surveys were as usual carried out by the school nurses. Although the returns are still far from satisfactory the figures show a slight improvement on the findings of last year's examinations.

13,119 children were examined at the first survey and 13,452 at the second. The proportion of children found to be unclean at the first inspection amounted to 22.9% and at the second 21.4%. A review of the figures showed the best schools to have a percentage of uncleanness varying from 3.8 to 4.9, while the worst figures were as high as 41.8%.

In assessing the average uncleanness of the departments, the infants and juniors had 23.4%, the senior girls had 27.5% and the senior boys 8.6%.

It was necessary to serve compulsory cleansing notices on the parents of fifteen children, in six families.

Tuberculosis.

Both in the pulmonary and the non-pulmonary types of tuberculosis there was a welcome decline in the number of cases.

The following table shows the incidence of tuberculosis among children of school age as revealed by notifications received by the Medical Officer of Health or otherwise ascertained.

Age-Group.	1946.		1947.	
	Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.	
	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.
5—10 years	7	9	7	6
10—15 years	5	16	2	5
Total	37		20	
	Non-Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
5—10 years	7	6	4	6
10—15 years	4	7	4	1
Total	24		15	

Following-up.

The Health visitors paid 876 visits to homes of school children to ascertain whether the necessary treatment was being obtained, 195 visits in connection with uncleanness, 554 visits after surgical and dental treatment, 123 in connection with orthopaedic cases, 510 regarding educationally subnormal children and 23 other visits.

In addition 163 visits were paid to the schools for routine medical inspection apart from 380 visits to the schools in connection with cleanliness surveys. (This is in addition to visits paid to the homes regarding tuberculosis, infant welfare and infectious diseases).

The health visitors and school nurses also attended 495 sessions at the general school clinics, 246 sessions at the dental clinics, 198 sessions for artificial sunlight treatment, daily sessions for the treatment of scabies, 99 sessions for immunisation, 42 sessions at the ear, nose and throat clinic, apart from attendance at tuberculosis, child welfare and other clinics.

Medical Treatment.

Number of children who attended the school clinic in 1947 4,582
 Number of these children who were treated..... 3,420

The total number of attendances was 18,452 as compared with 20,450 in 1946.

Skin Diseases.

The number of children who received treatment was as follows

Impetigo	135
Ringworm (scalp)	7
Ringworm (body)	23
Scabies	95
Other skin diseases	1,186

There was a general decline in the number of cases requiring attention. There were altogether 233 fewer cases of skin diseases than in 1946. There was a further substantial decrease in the number of cases of scabies which required treatment.

Preparations of penicillin were used more frequently in the treatment of skin diseases especially in extensive or stubborn cases of impetigo and other septic skin lesions.

Children who previously had to attend for weeks for treatment were cured in a few days. Much time away from school was thereby prevented.

When cases of scabies and ringworm are diagnosed at the school clinic or at school medical inspections the health visitors follow-up to see if any other members of the families are similarly affected.

Vision.

During the year 1,016 cases were submitted for refraction. In 878 of these, spectacles were prescribed. The number of spectacles supplied through the Education Authority's scheme was 746.

Diseases of the Ear, Nose and Throat.

The Authority's ear, nose and throat surgeon again dealt with a large number of cases. He attended 41 sessions at the school clinic during the year; 475 children were referred to him by the school medical officers. These children made 652 attendances and 210 children were referred by the surgeon for operations for middle ear disease, enlarged tonsils and adenoids and sinus and antrum infections.

In all, 417 school children received operative treatment at the General Hospital under the Education Authority's scheme, and 219 other children received other forms of treatment for diseases of the ear, nose and throat.

On account of the suspension of operative treatment for tonsils and adenoids for several weeks during the prevalence of poliomyelitis 161 fewer children were operated on than in 1946.

Orthopaedic Scheme.

During 1947, 110 children of school age were referred to the Orthopaedic Department of the Ingham Infirmary. This is the largest number of cases encountered in any one year since the beginning of the scheme in 1928. The majority of the cases were minor defects which soon responded to treatment and is further evidence that parents are seeking advice in the early stages and so avoiding serious or permanent crippling defects.

The following is a summary of the cases :—

Foot deformities	76
Torticollis	8
Spinal deformities	4
Herniae	3
Poliomyelitis (including two cases from the recent epidemic)	4
Knee or leg conditions	5
Miscellaneous injuries	5
Other defects	5
Total	<hr/> 110 <hr/>

Thirteen patients were admitted to the Ingham Infirmary for a total period of 220 in-patient days and eight operations were performed. 89 patients made 726 out-patients attendances. One child was supplied with surgical boots. In addition 12 patients received attention in other hospitals, three as in-patients and nine as out-patients; eight appliances were supplied and seven other children had their appliances renewed or repaired.

There was at times considerable difficulty and delay in obtaining surgical boots through scarcity of materials.

Dental Defects.

The following is a report on Dental Inspection by Mr. F. Innes, L.D.S., Senior School Dentist :—

“I have pleasure in presenting the dental report for the year 1947.

All the schools in the Borough have been visited. The children in attendance have been dentally examined and the necessary treatment has been completed when the parents' consent was obtained.

The number of children inspected during the year was 12,620 and of these 5,485 (43.5%) were found to require treatment. 2,946 (53.7%) children were actually treated by the school dentists.

There has been a marked improvement in the condition of the children's teeth and also in the percentage treated over the past twenty years. In 1925, when only a section of the entire school population was inspected, the percentage requiring treatment was 82.3 and the percentage treated was 31.3.

The following table shows the percentages of school children who required treatment and the percentages treated every year since 1926.

	<i>Percentage requiring treatment.</i>	<i>Percentage treated.</i>
1926	66.5	36.4
1927	53.1	33.4
1928	52.7	33.1
1929	60.5	31.7
1930	75.9	44.7
1931	72.9	37.7
1932	69.4	37.9
1933	67.4	35.7
1934	68.8	32.0
1935	66.1	33.4
1936	61.7	43.3
1937	57.5	46.5
1938	53.0	52.3
1939	52.4	63.7
1940	51.6	51.4
1941	48.2	50.8
1942	45.4	53.5
1943	44.5	48.6
1944	40.2	50.2
1945	41.6	50.0
1946	40.3	61.1
1947	43.5	53.7

The percentage of children requiring treatment has declined from 82.3 in 1925 to 43.5 in 1947. During the same time the percentage of children treated has increased from 31.3 in 1925 to 53.7 in 1947.

In 1929 and 1930 children up to ten years only were inspected but an additional age group was included in 1931, and each year subsequently another age group was added until in 1936 all the children in the Borough attending elementary schools were being inspected annually.

In 1937 the scope of the dental inspection was extended so as to include children attending the Boys and Girls High Schools.

The amount of conservative work on temporary teeth was gradually reduced so that all children who desired treatment, could be attended to and more attention was devoted to the saving of permanent teeth.

In 1936 some children were omitted from the inspections after the parents had refused three times to consent to necessary dental treatment but now all children are being inspected and treated when necessary in accordance with the School Health Service Regulations.

During the year 1947, 1,554 permanent teeth were filled and 867 permanent teeth were extracted (including those extracted for orthodontic purposes) and 4,910 deciduous teeth were extracted. A general anaesthetic was administered in 70 cases. There were 143 "other operations" including scalings, application of silver nitrate, dressings etc.

With regard to the orthodontic extractions, these have generally been first bicuspids and it is pleasing to report that the results have been most satisfactory.

Towards the end of the year parents were invited to be present on the occasion of the first dental inspection and the number of parents attending has been very satisfactory. It gives the dentist the opportunity of pointing out any dental defects and the importance of the six year old molars, and also the order of eruption of the other permanent teeth.

Owing to the present number of acceptances for dental treatment and the increase in the amount of conservative work an increase in the dental staff will be necessary if the yearly inspection of all children is to be maintained."

Ultra Violet Ray Therapy.

171 children of school age, who made 2,727 attendances, were treated by ultra-violet radiation including treatment by the Kromayer lamp.

The following summarizes the conditions treated :—

	Im- proved.	Ceased attend- ing	Trans- ferred for other treat- ment.	Still attend- ing.	Total
Debility.....	58	22	.....	19	99
Bronchitis	14	4	.....	15	33
Cervical adenitis	4	1	2	1	8
Asthma	3	2	.....	1	6
Rheumatism.....	2	.....	.....	.....	2
Septic sores	1	.....	.....	.....	1
Otitis	2	.....	.....	2	4
Alopecia	4	.....	.....	3	7
Psoriasis	2	2	.....	1	5
Eczema	1	.....	.....	.....	1
Anaemia	1	.....	.....	1	2
Diphtheria carriers	3	.....	.....	.....	3
	95	31	2	43	171

A large number of those who ceased attending had shown improvement in their condition.

The diphtheria carriers quickly benefitted by exposure to the Kromayer lamp, negative swabs being obtained after about a fortnight's treatment.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

158 children of school age were immunised during the past year by the medical staff of the Health Department as under :—

<i>Age.</i>	<i>Number.</i>
5	86
6	21
7	8
8	14
9	10
10	4
11	6
12	4
13	4
14	1

In addition 1,450 children under five years were immunised during 1947.

At the end of 1947 it was estimated that 81% of the school children in the Borough had been immunised.

Asthma.

Report by Miss M. Barrass, Physiotherapist to the South Shields General Hospital :—

Children's Remedial Exercises Class.

This weekly class was originated at the Municipal Clinic for the purpose of teaching remedial breathing exercises (based on those recommended by the Asthma Research Council) to children suffering from asthma and has in addition included patients diagnosed as suffering from bronchial catarrh, bronchial asthma, habitual mouth breathing (treated in conjunction with the Ear, Nose and Throat Department) and bronchiectasis. In the latter case patients (mainly sent by the Tuberculosis Medical Officer) are taught breathing exercises followed by postural drainage:

Some patients suffering from asthma have continued these exercises while in the General Hospital for observation and treatment.

Others for reasons of convenience have attended the General Hospital instead of the Municipal Clinic.

TECHNIQUE.

General principles include :—

1. Teaching of specific breathing exercises to encourage lower costal and diaphragmatic breathing and to emphasise need for correct expiration and general relaxation.
2. Remedial exercises to encourage mobility of shoulder girdle and thorax.
3. General exercises and games.*
4. Teaching of correct posture.

* Difficulty has been experienced in this respect because of the variation in ages of the patients and the somewhat limited accommodation.

Co-operation of children and parents has been good on the whole. Some parents state that in their opinion an asthma attack has been averted or lessened in severity by the child trying to perform the special breathing exercises at its onset.

Patients are reviewed at intervals of about two months by the School Medical Officer.

Number of patients treated	26	(14 girls, 12 (boys
Variation in ages	5	years—14 years.
Number of classes held	46	
Total number of attendances	245	
Average number in class	6	
Number of new patients	17	
Patients failing to attend	3	

RESULTS.

Patients discharged as being greatly improved	8
Patients reporting only at monthly intervals	4
Patients reporting at fortnightly intervals	2

At the end of 1947, 5 patients had attended for four sessions or less.

Two patients suffering from bronchiectasis were referred to the Northern Region Thoracic Unit.

Hospital Treatment.

To secure that comprehensive facilities for free medical treatment are available to school children, and to comply with the provisions of Section 48(3) of the Education Act, 1944, arrangements were made with the Ingham Infirmary and the South Shields General Hospital for the out-patient and in-patient treatment of acute illnesses and accidents. This is in addition to the existing arrangements for orthopaedic treatment and treatment for diseases of the ear, nose and throat.

From 1945 to the end of 1947, 697 children received various forms of medical and surgical institutional treatment at a cost of £2,682.

Physical Education.

Report by the Physical Education Organisers, Miss J. W. Thompson and Mrs. W. Yelder.

“For the first three months of the year an exceptionally long period of severe weather was experienced and the normal programme of physical education in the schools suffered considerably, particularly in those schools with no indoor accommodation for physical exercises. Swimming instruction was curtailed, no games were possible during or after school hours for many weeks, and attendances at Evening Classes declined. The unusually fine summer which followed, however, enabled some of the lost ground to be recovered.

A notable event of the year was the raising of the school leaving age to 15 years on the 1st April. The extra year at school will provide further opportunities for extending the scope of physical training, games, athletics and swimming, improving skill and creating interest. It serves, however, to emphasise the necessity for improved facilities in the nature of gymnasia and playing fields for all Secondary Schools. Those schools which have no gymnasia but a suitable Assembly Hall have been supplied with portable gymnastic apparatus which is a great help in maintaining the interest of the older children during the extra year. The larger variety of apparatus which can be provided in a gymnasium, particularly that for heaving, climbing and balancing enables a greater range of exercises and activities to be introduced which are both enjoyable and beneficial, and maintain the interest of the child throughout its school life.

A new approach to physical training in Infant and Junior Schools has recently developed and is now an established method. Activities of a more active, informal and individual type have replaced the more rigid and static mass exercises. The introduction of more minor apparatus enables more objective work to be done and results in increased interest and enjoyment, more opportunities for individual expression and greater variety and freedom of movement. This is a further step away from the old physical "drill" and is undoubtedly a step in the right direction to create a system more suited to the British child as well as to the more natural instinctive movements of younger children. Courses in this new work have been taken for teachers in Infant and Junior Schools and the activities demonstrated by classes of children. The work is now becoming established in the schools and the enthusiasm of both children and teachers is everywhere noticeable. The introduction of portable climbing apparatus, another feature of this new work, was begun last year and two more sets of this apparatus have been obtained this year but further supplies will be difficult to obtain owing to the shortage of timber and the limitation of manufacture.

The supply of sports and physical training equipment showed some improvement at the beginning of the year but unfortunately was not maintained for long, and supplies of most goods have gradually become more difficult during the year.

The various Schools Sports Associations once again did valuable work in encouraging games and sports out of school hours. The success of their efforts is dependent on the co-operation of a large number of teachers who voluntarily devote their time in the evenings

and on Saturday mornings to coach teams and supervise and referee matches. All these willing helpers see the reward of their voluntary efforts in the enthusiasm of the children and the obvious enjoyment they derive from their games. The Schools Football Association formed an extra division of their school leagues to cater for the additional year now spent at school, and altogether four divisions are now functioning. The Cricket Association had another successful season and the exceptionally sunny weather added to the enjoyment of the games, while the Netball Association ran a full programme of inter-school matches and rounded off the season with a knock-out tournament. The Swimming Association held the usual Annual Gala which was most efficiently organised and marked by keen competition for the cup awarded to the Girls' School obtaining most points, and a most exciting finish for the cup for the Boys' Schools which ended in a tie between two schools.

Once again it is pleasing to record that there was an increased demand for evening classes in physical recreation from youth of both sexes, but the number of classes which can be catered for is limited by the number of gymnasia available and the number of teachers willing to take classes, and has almost reached saturation point. It is becoming increasingly difficult to obtain teachers who are both qualified and willing to take classes in the evenings, as most recruits come from the ranks of qualified school teachers who, taking similar subjects during the day, usually desire a rest or change of occupation in the evening."

School Baths.

The attendance of children at the Baths in school parties during 1947 was as follows :—

Boys	22,436
Girls	10,582

Owing to a long spell of severe weather during February and March the swimming baths were closed for several weeks. No examinations for certificates were held at the end of the Spring Term and no Life Saving awards were made. At subsequent examinations 921 certificates were gained.

Provision of Meals and Milk.

FREE MEALS.—Dinner only.

Total number of meals supplied to children during the year 1947	306,050
Total number of individual children supplied	1,639
Total cost of food	£7,064/13/1
Number of Centres	30

FREE MILK.—

Number of individual children supplied	12,000(approx)
Total quantity supplied (third pints)	2,382,849
	(99,285 gallons).

The cost of the milk was borne by the Ministry of Food.

HANDICAPPED CHILDREN.**Educationally subnormal.**

During 1947, 36 children reported by the head teachers or brought to notice in other ways as very much retarded in educational progress, were specially examined by the assistant school medical officers, whose recommendations are summarised below. (Included are some children who were re-examined following an inconclusive result in a previous year).

	<i>Boys.</i>	<i>Girls.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Educationally Sub-normal :—			
1. for ordinary school with special provision	8	13	21
2. for special day school	4	7	11
3. for special boarding school	1	1	2
Inconclusive	1		1
Not educationally subnormal		1	1

Twenty children were recommended to be reported to the Mental Deficiency Act Committee with a view to their being sent to an institution or to being kept under supervision or guardianship :—

	<i>Boys</i>	<i>Girls.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
(a) Under Section 57(3) Education Act, 1944 (incapable of receiving education at school)	9	3	12
(b) Under Section 57(5) Education Act, 1944 (requiring supervision on leaving the special school)	2	6	8

At the end of 1947 there were 205 educationally subnormal children under the jurisdiction of the Education Committee, as under :—

	<i>Boys.</i>	<i>Girls.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
In special schools	44	71	115
In maintained primary or secondary schools	37	45	82
In independent schools	1	1	2
Not at school	4	2	6

Enumeration of Handicapped Pupils (early 1948):—

Category of Disability.	In Special Schools.		In maintained Primary and Secondary Schools.		In Independent Schools.		Not at School.		Total.	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
(a) Blind	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
(b) Partially sighted	10	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	9
(c) Deaf	9	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	7
(d) Partially deaf	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
(e) Delicate	49	80	27	16	...	...	6	2	82	98
(f) Diabetic	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(g) Educationally sub-normal	31	53	31	36	1	1	...	1	63	91
(h) Epileptic	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
(i) Maladjusted	2	1	21	4	...	2	...	1	23	8
(j) Physically handicapped	6	4	...	...	...	...	47	21	53	25
(k) Speech defect	6	1	239	115	...	...	...	...	245	116
(l) Multiple disabilities ;	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(a) and (e)	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
(b) and (g)	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
(b) and (i)	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
(d) and (g)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...
(e) and (g)	3	5	1	...	...	...	...	...	4	5
(e) and (i)	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	...
(e) and (k)	3	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	3
(g) and (i)	...	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	1	2
(g), (i) and (k)	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
(g) and (j)	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	2	1
(g), (j) and (k)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
(g) and (k)	8	11	4	7	...	...	...	...	12	18
(i) and (k)	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
	133	179	326	179	1	3	56	27	516	388

Among these 904 children there were 967 defects, some of the children having more than one defect. Those classified as not at school include cases in sanatoria and hospitals. The educationally subnormal does not include 123 children reported as such by head teachers but not yet classified as such by a school medical officer. A number of children for whom institutional care is not available or is unsuitable are having home tuition with the approval of the Ministry of Education and some children in the General Hospital and Ingham Infirmary receive tuition in hospital.

Maladjusted Children.

Eighteen children were referred to the Sunderland Child Guidance Centre. These cases included two epileptics, five enuretics, six delinquents and three educationally subnormal. Several of these subsequently attended the Centre for treatment and were much improved.

In the case of the worst delinquents and the educationally subnormal, institutional care was recommended

In all cases valuable and practical advice was given and I gratefully acknowledge the assistance given by Dr. Hinds, Miss Stirling and the staff of the Sunderland Education Authority's Child Guidance Centre.

But for the difficulty in obtaining trained and experienced staff a similar centre would have been established in South Shields. There is a very great need for such an organisation.

There is an unfortunate lack of residential accommodation for children who on account of their own mental condition or the unsuitability of their homes need special provision. Occasionally, children who in former years were recommended for residential treatment and for whom no such accommodation was available are found to be in trouble and have to be dealt with in the Courts. The development of residential homes preferably on a regional basis would, without doubt, prevent much juvenile delinquency.

Special Day School.

New premises were occupied on 6th January, 1947, in the building formerly known as St. Stephen's School. The premises were adapted and decorated. Subsequently a new iron fire-escape was installed and outhouses converted into store-rooms for P.T. equipment and gardening apparatus. One room was converted into a canteen.

Plans have been approved for the provision of a domestic science centre. At present there are six classes, each of twenty children and special lessons are given in speech-training, drama and free expression.

The boys began swimming instruction in September. They were very enthusiastic about this new venture and nine swimming certificates were gained. It is hoped to organise swimming instruction for the girls in the 1948 season.

The boys have manual instruction one day per week at a neighbouring centre and have made some excellent toys for the infant class in the school.

The girls attend a domestic science centre on two days weekly.

Towards the end of the year there were 123 scholars on the register; twelve children were admitted during 1947 and eighteen were withdrawn. Of those who left five were referred for institutional care; one, who had shown improvement, was returned to the ordinary school and ten are known to be in constant employment.

A Youth Club for former pupils is in the process of formation. It will encourage healthy recreations and will be a means of keeping in touch with ex-pupils.

Speech Training.

During 1947 four intensive courses were held at the Wesley Street Centre. 23 boys and 13 girls receiving this special type of education. Of these 36, 18 were "stammerers", three had articulation defects and 15 had a stammer plus another speech defect.

As a result of treatment 27 were judged to have speech under control, five also had control of speech but needed further part-time treatment and four had improved but required additional intensive treatment.

Thirty-nine other children, who previously had completed the full course, attended for part-time treatment at the Centre.

The Authority's speech therapist also visited the schools and gave advice or treatment to 215 children, 85 with a stammer, 108 with speech defects and 22 with stammer plus speech defect.

School visiting was found to be mutually helpful as personal contact was possible with head-teachers, teachers and pupils. Advice was generally welcomed and acted upon. Treatment at the Centre was obviated in many cases.

The children at the Special School (Educationally Subnormal) were also visited. They were happy and responsive but soon forgot their instructions. Fortunately there is an experienced teacher on the staff who follows up the treatment.

Relaxation therapy was included in the training and it continued to prove most helpful.

Open Air School.

During 1947 this school was re-organised to include partially sighted pupils and an additional class of 30 delicate children. There are now five classes of delicate children and one partially sighted class, with 165 pupils on the register. A male teacher was appointed to take charge of the older boys. This was proved to be beneficial and there is little doubt that it was necessary on account of the number of senior boys in the school, as well as for the teaching of subjects such as games, gardening, practical geography and wood-work.

During the year 49 delicate children were admitted to the school and 23 left or were transferred to other schools.

The admissions were classified as follows —

Debility.....	16
Anaemia	7
Malnutrition	7
Bronchitis or asthma	12
Non-infective tuberculosis	2
Heart disease	2
Chronic blepharitis	2
Poliomyelitis	1
Total	<hr/> 49 <hr/>

Five children left the partially-sighted class and four pupils were admitted—three cases of high myopia and one case of nystagmus.

The policy of educating the partially-sighted children with other pupils has certainly been justified. History, geography, scripture and wireless talks are now taken with the normally-sighted children of their own age and especially in the case of the older pupils, this has been a decided advantage.

More variety has recently been introduced into the curriculum especially with regard to bookwork and hand-work. There is now a larger choice of books in large print; the children are using brightly coloured paints for patterns and pictures and brightly coloured wools and cottons for stitching. This has helped to relieve the monotony of their daily tasks and has given them an increased interest in their work.

Towards the end of the year all the partially-sighted children were examined by the consulting ophthalmologist, who reported that in no case was there any deterioration of vision and some had improved. There was a noticeable improvement in the general health of the children.

Convalescent Home.

Twenty-eight school children were admitted to the Convalescent Home during 1947, under the Education Authority's scheme. The total number of in-patient days was 1596.

Shoeless Children's Fund.

The Chief Constable informs me that 714 children were supplied with boots, shoes or clogs during the year through this Fund of which he is the Honorary Secretary.

Higher Education for the Blind, etc.

At the end of the year two blind girls were attending higher education courses.

Miscellaneous.

Twenty-eight children who required certificates for stage performances were examined. All were granted the necessary certificate.

Deaths in School Children.

The following is a statement of the causes of death during 1947 of children of school age (5 to 14 years) :—

CAUSES OF DEATHS.	Boys.		Girls.		Total.
	5-9 years	10-14 years	5-9 years	10-14 years	
Tuberculosis : respiratory			2	...	2
Tuberculosis : other forms	1	1	1	...	3
Influenza .....	...	...	...	1	1
Diabetes	1	...	...	1	2
Middle ear disease	1	...	...	...	1
Bronchitis	1	...	...	...	1
Pneumonia .....	...	...	1	...	1
Appendicitis	2	...	...	...	2
Road traffic accidents	1	...	1	1	3
Total	7	1	5	3	16

Mental Health Clinic.

In June, 1947, Dr. G. McCoull, Superintendent of Prudhoe Hall Colony began monthly visits to the Municipal Clinic for the purpose of examining cases referred to him by the school medical staff.

Six sessions were held during the year and 17 cases were examined. These were chiefly low grade mentally defectives. Dr. McCoull advised as to their suitability for admission to an institution and in some cases arranged for this to be done.

Pediatric Clinic.

This clinic was begun in October. Dr. J. B. Arthur, Physician at the General Hospital, examined cases referred from the School Clinic. These were mainly children suffering from heart disease, rheumatism and chorea. Children with various other ailments were also sent to him for his opinion.

During the year 8 sessions were held at weekly intervals; 38 children were examined and reported upon. Certain cases were admitted to hospital for investigation or treatment. Generally the parents were very grateful for the specialist's advice and action.

Table 1.—Medical Inspection of Pupils attending Maintained Primary and Secondary Schools.

A.—PERIODIC MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

Number of Inspections in the prescribed Groups.

Entrants	1,512
Second Age Group	1,534
Third Age Group	1,360
Total	4,406
Number of other periodic inspections	101
Grand Total	4,507

B.—OTHER INSPECTIONS.

Number of Special Inspections	6,001
Number of Re-Inspections	5,842
Total	11,843

C.—PUPILS FOUND TO REQUIRE TREATMENT.

Number of Individual pupils found at Periodic Medical Inspection to require treatment (excluding Dental Diseases and Infestation with Vermin).

Group. (1)	For defective vision (excluding squint). (2)	For any of the other conditions recorded in Table IIA. (3)	Total individual pupils. (4)
Entrants	75	321	354
Second Age Group	232	384	524
Third Age Group	191	312	460
Total (prescribed groups)	498	1,017	1,338
Other Periodic Inspections	21	15	31
Grand Total	519	1,032	1,369

Table 2.

A.—RETURN OF DEFECTS FOUND BY MEDICAL INSPECTION IN THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1947.

Defect Code No.	Defect or Disease. (1)	PERIODIC INSPECTIONS		SPECIAL INSPECTIONS.	
		No. of defects.		No. of defects.	
		Requiring treatment (2)	Requiring to be kept under ob- servation but not re- quiring treatment. (3)	Requiring treatment (4)	Requiring to be kept under ob- servation, but not re- quiring treatment. (5)
4	Skin	76	67	1,446	....
5	Eyes—				
	a. Vision	519	239	390	....
	b. Squint	67	110	28	....
	c. Other	35	60	189	....
6	Ears—				
	a. Hearing	11	3	19	....
	b. Otitis				
	Media	15	7	19	....
	c. Other	28	....	215	15
7	Nose or Throat	401	141	539	10
8	Speech	12	30	8	....
9	Cervical Glands	8	220	50	..
10.	Heart and Circulation	14	16	2	....
11	Lungs	32	67	15	....
12	Development—				
	a. Hernia	13	3	...	..
	b. Other .....	....	....	....	..
13	Orthopaedic—				
	a. Posture	7	4	....	....
	b. Flat foot	18	3	....	....
	c. Other	50	41	53	..
14	Nervous system—				
	a. Epilepsy .....	....	3	2	1
	b. Other	6	3	8	3
15	Psychological—				
	a. Develop- ment .....	....	....	....	....
	b. Stability .....	....	....	....	....
16	Other.. ..	216	75	1,451	66

B.—CLASSIFICATION OF THE GENERAL CONDITION OF PUPILS INSPECTED DURING THE YEAR IN THE AGE GROUPS.

Age Groups.	Number of Pupils Inspected.	A. (Good).		B. (Fair).		C. (Poor).	
		No.	% of col.2	No.	% of col.2	No.	% of col.2
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Entrants	1,512	338	22.3	860	56.9	314	20.8
Second Age Group	1,534	357	23.3	787	51.3	390	25.4
Third Age Group	1,360	512	37.6	677	49.8	171	12.6
Other Periodic Inspections	101	42	41.6	45	44.5	14	13.9
Total	4,507	1,249	27.7	2,369	52.6	889	19.7

Table 3.—Treatment Tables.

GROUP I.—MINOR AILMENTS (excluding Uncleanliness, for which see Table V).

(a)	Number of Defects treated or under treatment during the year.
SKIN.—	
Ringworm—Scalp—	
(i) X-Ray treatment. If none, indicate by dash	—
(ii) Other treatment	7
Ringworm—Body	23
Scabies	95
Impetigo	135
Other skin diseases	1,186
Eye Disease	219
(External and other, but excluding errors of refraction, squint and cases admitted to hospital)	
Ear Defects	239
(Treatment for serious diseases of the ear (<i>e.g.</i> operative treatment in hospital) should not be recorded here but in the body of the School Medical Officer's Annual Report).	
Miscellaneous	908
(<i>e.g.</i> minor injuries, bruises, sores, chilblains, etc).	
Total	2,812
(b) Total number of attendances at Authority's minor ailments clinics	18,452

GROUP II.—DEFECTIVE VISION AND SQUINT (excluding Eye Disease treated as Minor Ailments—Group I.)

	No. of defects dealt with.
ERRORS OF REFRACTION (including squint). (Operations for squint should be recorded separately in the body of the School Medical Officer's Report	1,016
Other defect or disease of the eyes (excluding those recorded in Group I.) .....	.....
Total	1,016

No. of Pupils for whom spectacles were	
(a) Prescribed	878
(b) Obtained	746

GROUP III.—TREATMENT OF DEFECTS OF NOSE AND THROAT.

	Total number Treated.
Received operative treatment—	
(a) for adenoids and chronic tonsillitis	343
(b) for other nose and throat conditions	74
Received other forms of treatment	219
Total	636

GROUP IV.—ORTHOPAEDIC AND POSTURAL DEFECTS.

(a) No. treated as in-patients in hospitals or hospital schools	17
(b) No. treated otherwise <i>e.g.</i> in clinics or out-patient departments	99

GROUP V.—CHILD GUIDANCE TREATMENT AND SPEECH THERAPY.

No. of pupils treated :—	
(a) under Child Guidance arrangements	19
(b) under Speech Therapy arrangements	215

Table 4.—Dental Inspection and Treatment.

(1) Number of pupils inspected by the Authority's Dental Officers :—

(a)	Periodic age groups	12,613
(b)	Specials.....	7
		<hr/>
(c)	TOTAL (Periodic and Specials)	12,620
		<hr/>
(2)	Number found to require treatment	5,485
(3)	Number actually treated	2,946
(4)	Attendances made by pupils for treatment....	3,996
(5)	Half-days devoted to : (a) Inspection.....	109
	(b) Treatment.....	615
		<hr/>
	Total (a) and (b)	724
		<hr/>
(6)	Fillings	
	Permanent Teeth	1,554
	Temporary Teeth .....	.....
		<hr/>
	Total	1,554
		<hr/>
(7)	Extractions	
	Permanent Teeth	867
	Temporary Teeth	4,910
		<hr/>
	Total	5,777
		<hr/>
(8)	Administration of general anaesthetics for extraction	70
(9)	Other Operations :	
	(a) Permanent Teeth	143
	(b) Temporary Teeth	1
		<hr/>
	Total (a) and (b)	144
		<hr/>

Table 5.—Infestation with Vermin.

	1st Survey.	2nd Survey.
(i) Total number of examinations in the schools by the school nurses or other authorized persons.	17,081	17,190
Number of individual children examined	13,119	13,452
(ii) Total number of <i>individual</i> pupils found to be infested	3,009	2,841
(iii) Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing notices were issued (Section 54(2), Education Act, 1944)	15	.....
(iv). Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing orders were issued (Section 54(3), Education Act, 1944)	.....	.....